

<p style="text-align: center;">Substitute for form 1449/PTO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				<i>Complete if Known</i>			
				Application Number		10/804,761	
				Filing Date		March 19, 2004	
				First Named Inventor		Stephen Hochschuler et al.	
				Art Unit		3775	
				Examiner Name		Michael J. Araj	
Sheet	1	of	3	Attorney Docket Number	3110.22US02		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)					
		US-3,867,728		02-25-1975	Stubstad et al.		
		US-4,655,777		04-07-1987	Dunn et al.		
		US-4,735,625		04-05-1988	Davidson		
		US-4,755,184		07-05-1988	Silverberg		
		US-4,863,477		09-05-1989	Monson		
		US-4,932,969		06-12-1990	Frey et al.		
		US-4,932,975		06-12-1990	Main et al.		
		US-4,936,848		06-26-1990	Bagby		
		US-5,015,255		05-14-1991	Kuslich		
		US-5,059,193		10-22-1991	Kuslich		
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		US-5,282,863		02-01-1994	Burton		
		US-5,306,307		04-26-1994	Senter et al.		
		US-5,306,308		04-26-1994	Gross et al.		
		US-5,306,309		04-26-1994	Wagner et al.		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶		
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					
		EP 0 322 334	06-28-1989	Cote S A R L	X Abstract Only		
		EP 0 621 020 A1	10-26-1994	Sulzer Medizinal Technik AG	X Abstract Only		
		FR 2 639 823	06-08-1990	Garcia Alain	X Abstract Only		
		FR 2 662 073	11-22-1991	BFL Medical Sarl	X Abstract Only		
		WO 93/16664	09-02-1993	Limbs & Things Limited			
EXAMINER SIGNATURE				DATE CONSIDERED			
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<small>¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.</small>							
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EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
		Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)			
		US-5,306,310	04-26-1994	Siebels	
		US-5,306,311	04-26-1994	Stone et al.	
		US-5,314,477	05-24-1994	Marnay	
		US-5,314,478	05-24-1994	Oka et al.	
		US-2004/0215344 A1	10-28-2004	Hochschuler et al.	
		US-			
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published			T ²
		Application and File History of U.S. Patent No. 5,549,679, issued August 27, 1996, Inventor Stephen D. Kuslich, as available on PAIR at www.uspto.gov			
		Application and File History for U.S. Patent No. 6,740,093, issued May 25, 2004, Inventors Hochschuler et al., as available on PAIR at www.uspto.gov			
		Application and File History for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/909,667, filed July 20, 2001, Inventors Kuslich et al., www.uspto.gov			
		Application and File History for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/804,955, filed March 19, 2004, Inventors Hochschuler et al., as available on PAIR at www.uspto.gov			
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